

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A unitized mat to facilitate growing woody plants comprising:

at least two polymeric material layers sized and shaped to cover an area immediately around at least one plant and selectively bonded together to define fluid-conveying passageways forming one or more distribution headers and a flow restricting means;

an inlet means for delivery of a fluid into the distribution headers throughout the polymeric material layers, said inlet means being in fluid communication with the distribution headers; and

an outlet means for dispensing and metering fluid into a root zone area covered by at least one layer of said polymeric material layers, said outlet means being in fluid communication with said flow restricting means,

wherein said flow restricting means is in fluid connection with the distribution header and a multi-dimensional array of said outlet means.

2. The unitized mat of Claim 1, wherein the polymeric material layers have an opening in which the plant extends therethrough, the plant being a woody plant.

3. The unitized mat of Claim 2, wherein said opening is adjustable, said woody plant having variable stem or trunk size.

4. The unitized mat of Claim 2, wherein the polymeric material layers have an installation seam extending from said opening to an outer edge of the polymeric material layers.

5. The unitized mat of Claim 4, wherein said installation seam has overlapping ends.
6. The unitized mat of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the polymeric material layers are removably positioned in a container.
7. The unitized mat of Claim 6, wherein at least one polymeric layer covers an area on a surface of said container.
8. The unitized mat of Claim 6, further comprising a spring means for extending the polymeric material layers to cover the surface of said container, said spring means contacting at least one of the polymeric material layers.
9. The unitized mat of Claim 6, wherein at least one of the polymeric material layers have a plurality of flexible extension flaps extending from the outer circumference thereof.
10. The unitized mat of Claim 6, wherein at least one of the polymeric material layers have an outer circumference extending beyond edges of said container.
11. The unitized mat of Claim 6, further comprising an anchoring means for restraining at least one of the polymeric material layers to said container, said anchoring means contacting at least one of the polymeric material layers.

12. The unitized mat of Claim 1, wherein said outlet means comprise a plurality of outlet means evenly distributed over the area covered by at least one of the polymeric material layers.

13. The unitized mat of Claim 12, wherein said outlet means are perforations extending through the polymeric material layers.

14. The unitized mat of Claim 12, wherein said outlet means are first perforations and second perforations, said first perforations extending through a first polymeric material layer only, said second perforations extending through a second polymeric material layer only, said first perforations being offset from said second perforations.

15. The unitized mat of Claim 1, further comprising an anchoring means for restraining at least one of the polymeric material layers, said anchoring means contacting at least one of the polymeric material layers.

16. The unitized mat of Claim 1, wherein said inlet means is in fluid connection with a fluid-filled container.

17. The unitized mat of Claim 16, wherein at least one of the polymeric material layers are integral with the fluid-filled container.

18. The unitized mat of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the polymeric material layers have a plurality of openings through which plants extend, the plants being woody plants.

19. The unitized mat of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the polymeric material layers have a plurality of flexible extension flaps extending from the outer edge thereof.
20. The unitized mat of claim 1, wherein at least one of the distribution headers is comprised of a flow restricting means.